

INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTION COURSE CRITIQUE

The Intelligence Production Course is somewhat of a misnomer; not much "production" is done, but instead, the student is assumed to become the eager recipient of fresh, inside information from various speakers who supply him with the philosophies and techniques of DDI office employees.

The course boils down to a series of orientation trips, lectures and talks (formal and informal), a certain amount of comment and criticism of the trips and talks and a limited amount of producing intelligence (writing). It is all well and good to visit and learn about NPIC, IAS, OSI, [REDACTED] and STATSPEC all the others, but the main thrust, I believe, should be in giving us a chance to do what the intelligence producing offices do. Since most of us are not photo interpreters, rocket fuel experts or propaganda analysts, we should be given more of a chance to dabble in the generalist's field of OCI, OER and OSR. We should be given a chance to draft two or three Weeklies', two or three Bulletins' and two or three Digests' plus a larger paper such as a Memorandum or Weekly Special Report. And we should be able to use the resources the desk analyst has on hand to write the pieces. All this means spending more time in the OCI, OER and OSR areas and less time somewhere else. Probably the most vulnerable time frame is the three weeks spent

writing the final paper. Give us one week and access to analysts' files to do the final paper. This should be enough time for most people to complete the paper.

The schedule of events in the course would necessarily become more crowded if more written assignments were given, and some of the visits would probably have to be shortened or dropped altogether. The ones to drop or shorten are purely arbitrary and hard to decide upon because someone out of the group is bound to derive some value out of each visit and slighting one area would probably deprive someone of some bit of knowledge. Out of fear of doing just that, I'll decline to name any office visits which I think could be eliminated.

The methods of instruction used were, I think, very good. Once we understood what was wanted and once we agreed on how the assignment was to be interpreted, the rest was easy. Oral critiques are best; written ones are nice for the instructor who doesn't like to take notes but, for the most part, tiresome and uninstructional to us. The unstructured and leisurely approach is conducive to more enjoyable learning. In this connection, the added written assignments should not be hindered by deadlines but, instead, be designed to give us practice in CIA (DDI) writing techniques and style.

In other words, the course should become more production oriented. A nice balance of visiting, listening, questioning and reading, writing, rewriting should be attained. Right now,

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the scales are tipped in favor of the former.

That's all. I enjoyed the program, the course, the instruction and your wonderful parking facilities. Thanks.

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